

MURPHY KEEPS HIS STATE TICKET WELL CONCEALED

Till He Gives the Tip There
Is a Dearth of Booms
and No Scramble.

AND "WHAT THE USE?"

Tammany Opinion Appears
to Favor Bensen for Gov-
ernor—Sulzer Mentioned.

As the Democratic situation evolves itself, there is every reason to believe that the State convention next Thursday in Terrace Garden will be a quiet little tea party, from which candidates will emerge after having been selected with the utmost political finesse. So far no one is allowed to know much about the promising that is going on. There is no open scramble for places on the ticket. It is a safe bet that Charles F. Murphy and his close associates will not have the puzzle of picking one out of fifteen or more for the Governor's job, as they had two years ago. No boom has been started with anything like publicity, if the one launched three weeks ago at an east side dinner for William Sulzer be excepted.

Yesterday, at the Hotel Knickerbocker, after State Committee men got over talking about "the flurry" at the meeting, a member from just above the New York boundary line asked John A. Mason, Gov. Dix's secretary:

"Do you think the Governor will be a candidate again?"

To this Mr. Mason replied in equal seriousness with that which accompanied the question:

"I really do not think he has given much thought to it."

Then the two passed and neither smiled. As a matter of gossip, the only time the Governor's name was mentioned except this was as a possible delegate-at-large to the National Convention.

TAMMANY OPINION APPEARS TO FAVOR BENSEL.

The undercurrent of opinion among the Tammany Hall men is that the choice will fall on John A. Bensen, State Engineer and Surveyor. He is believed to be the choice of Mr. Murphy and in a year when the State situation seems to be safely held by the Tammany leader this appears to be enough. Persons who came from up the State brought reports that Mr. Bensen was working up an organization through the upper counties. It was suggested that he might have a good lever through the State and the Department of Highways. Beyond Bensen and Sulzer no names were mentioned.

As for the Presidential candidate, all committee men approached said it was too early for the picking. Only nine States have so far expressed their preferences, and the standing now is: Wilson, 4; Clark, 2; Harmon, 2; Gov. Burke of North Dakota, 10; Gov. Marshall of Indiana, 20. Here are some of the prophecies:

The New York State delegation will vote for Harmon.

Harmon will not get the nomination because the Bryan influence is strong enough to prevent it.

Wilson will go to the national convention with a majority of the delegates, but not enough.

Wilson can't be elected because he can't carry New York.

The ticket will be Clark and Hearst.

It will be shown that Clark and Underwood are out only with the sole object of keeping votes away from Wilson.

It may be Bryan after all.

Keep your eye on Gaynor.

BELIEVE TAFT WILL LEAD THE ENEMY.

Looking to the other side of the fence, it was the general opinion that the sentiment of the Republican organization throughout the State is for Taft. Being strong organization men, they declared that if Roosevelt were to bolt the independent Democratic vote he might attract would not amount to much.

"We have a good chance this time," said one, "and the independents are just as eager to take hold of it as we are."

Having followed the course of William Barnes Jr., Republican State Chairman, the Democratic observers could not figure how he could turn to Hughes.

"I think that Barnes would throw the Taft boom into the Hudson River tomorrow and not bat an eye," said one.

"I don't see how Barnes can tie up to Hughes after what happened in Albany," was his rejoinder. "Barnes is not slow to forget. Besides, if by chance Hughes were nominated and elected, where would Barnes come in on the State patronage? Hughes in Washington would be the same as Hughes in Albany."

The Democrats are resting up a bit to-day after their committee meetings. They got four of their hands yesterday. The three last night in Tammany Hall were almost over before the late arrivals got seated. These chairmen were named: County Committee, Dr. Thomas Darlington, former Health Commissioner; Judiciary, Leslie W. Tompkins; Borough, Barrow S. Weeks. Thos. F. Smith and Philip F. Donohue were named secretary and treasurer of all three.

A. SMITH BEATS A. SMITH.

Candidates of Same Name Fight for Mayoralty.

LA CROSSE, Wis., April 5.—August Smith defeated August Smith for Mayor of Virgoque, Wis., on Tuesday, according to the official count, which was completed to-day. Both August Smiths are leading citizens of the town, one being a merchant and the other principal of the High School.

The merchant, who for purposes of identification was recorded as August Smith, the elder, was chosen Mayor by 100 majority.

Longest Untought Reno Divorce On Record Won by N. Y. Woman



Court Took Testimony Four
Hours Before Decree Was
Awarded to Mrs. Fox.

RENO, Nev., April 5.—Mrs. Margaret Fox has been granted a divorce from her husband, Hugh Corby Fox of No. 120 West Fifty-seventh street, New York. Although Fox did not oppose the suit in court, the hearing before Judge Orr lasted four hours—the longest uncontested case in the divorce history of Reno.

HOPELESS INVALID DIED BY MENTAL SUGGESTION.

Man Had Determined to Take His
Life When His Wish Was
Granted.

Death by mental suggestion intervened to end the sufferings of Frederick Fredericks, an incurable invalid, according to a story told by his wife, Hannah, to the police of the Fifth street station to-day. Fredericks lived in a furnished room at No. 79 East Third street. He had been bedridden four years.

The wife lives at No. 35 First street, where she is employed. It was her custom to visit her invalid husband every morning and evening. During the rest of the time Fredericks lay in his bed looking at the ceiling, listening to the sound of the street, alone with his thoughts.

He often wished for death, but it was not until last night that he spoke to his wife of suicide. When she called on him he begged her to leave poison or a razor or a revolver in the room—anything that would enable him to do away with himself. Life, he said, had become intolerable. Mrs. Fredericks, on leaving late in the evening, took away a razor she found in a bureau drawer.

When she went to visit Fredericks this morning she found him dead. Her first impression was that he had killed himself and she ran to the police station and told her story. A policeman went to the East Third street house and called a doctor. It was found that Fredericks had died of natural causes.

Exposure Kills Sleeper.

An unidentified man about thirty-five years old was found dead to-day on a lot at Sixty-third street and Third avenue, Brooklyn, by a passer-by. Dr. Carter of the Norwegian Hospital said the man had died of exposure. The police believe he had entered the lot to sleep and that his heart failed during the night because of the cold and dampness.

Woman Arrested Trying to Leave Dead Companion in Hotel.

A man believed, from badge and papers in his clothing, to have been Walter O'Connell, fifty years old, an employe of the New York Railways Company, who lived in Brooklyn, was found dead to-day in the Hotel Washington, Hoboken. He went to the hotel last night with Bridget Delaney, forty-eight years old, of No. 805 Willow avenue, Hoboken. He signed the register "T. White and wife."

The woman this morning started to leave the hotel. The clerk asked where the man was. She said she could not wake him. She was held while the clerk investigated. The man was found dead in bed. A hospital intern said that death was due to natural causes, but the woman was locked up as a "disorderly person."

Blaze amounting to nothing, the firemen sympathetically grouped around the horse and its driver, Charlie Smith, who made no attempt to hide his tears.

A veterinary was sent for, and after a careful examination announced that the horse would have to be destroyed. Smith refused to drive the truck to the engine house and stayed by the injured horse until a bullet had put it out of its misery.

The fire was in the offices of the E. R. Merrill Spring Company and was extinguished by employees.

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PUT BOMB OF OIL BY FIRE STARTED IN BIG TENEMENT

Had Demijohn of Kerosene
Exploded Many Lives Might
Have Been Lost.

Twenty-two families in the six-story tenement at No. 220 East Twenty-sixth street had a narrow escape last night when the building was set on fire by an incendiary who placed a demijohn and a quart bottle of kerosene and a quantity of oil-soaked clothes and paper in the hallway.

A few minutes before the fire was discovered Mrs. Jennie Silverman, the janitress, had gone through the building lowering the gas lights. She saw no one in the hall at that time. About 11:30 Mrs. Samuel Katz, who, with her husband and fourteen-month-old daughter, Sylvia, live on the third floor, rear, heard a small being struck in the private hallway between her rooms and those of Samuel Weitsland. A moment later the hall door opened, and Mrs. Katz heard some one go out, closing the door carefully.

Mrs. Katz became uneasy and went to the door. She was met by a sheet of flame that scorched her face. She slammed the door and aroused her husband. Their screams awakened Weitsland, who opened his door only to be driven back by the flames, which filled the narrow hallway. He opened the door again and threw a bucket of water on the flames, but it only seemed to spread the blaze.

Another moment the house was in a turmoil. As the men, women and children, all in night clothes, ran into the main hallway, the thick smoke almost suffocated them. Some returned to their rooms and went to the front windows. Others climbed out on the fire escapes. About a dozen of the families fought their way through the smoke to the street. The Katzes and Weitslands had been hemmed in by the flames, and they fled down the rear fire escape.

At one end of the private hallway the kerosene-soaked clothes and papers were found. Near by were the demijohn and quart bottle. A few minutes more and the oil would have been ignited. Had this happened, the fireman said, the entire building would probably have been in flames before aid could have arrived, and a great loss of life might have followed.

After the fire had been put out, most of the terror-stricken families refused to enter the building and stood in the street, shivering. The children cried to be taken indoors, as they stood on the sidewalk in bare feet. The smallest children were in their mothers' arms, some with nothing over them but thin little bed sheets, which had been seized with the babies when they were taken from their cribs. A score of the tenants were taken in by friends.

The Fire Marshal was informed of the circumstances and at once began an investigation.

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